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Letters from Hazel Todd (1930) (Part 2)

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Shucheng, Anhwei, China, Jan. 12, 1932

Dear Mother:-

You see we are still here and may be for some time to come. The heads of the mission do not think it necessary to move. None of our nearest neighbors are moving either. It might be well if we had some things packed but we have not.

The most exciting things that went on lately on this compound was between Sunday morning in the small hours of the morning and noon a baby and two kids were born. The baby was born during church time. It was a girl but since this is the fourth child and the first girl the parents are pleased. The mother had not prepared anything. Her husband's wages had not arrived on time. That made some difference of course. We had a young woman on the compound last summer during the flood that we could not be sure about. So we got things prepared then. We never put things back afterwards. We found these things very handy Sunday morning when we had to take them out in a hurry. As to the kids they are both nannies. The gardener has been duly impressed that our goats are not cheap Chinese ones but thorough breeds. So he staid up about all night with the goat. We are glad to have two nannies for the man who owns the goats promised to give us the increase of the herd while he is home on fullough. Eva has already taken a picture of the kids. They are very cute. This evening the gardener milked the goat and even though the kids have been with her all day he got about a pint of milk. Perhaps I should say as to the mother and baby that they are getting on as well as can be expected.

We have been having wonderful weather. We have not had it nearly as cold as the two winters before. We have not had any great amount of snow either. Just now though it is not wise to do too much visiting as people are preparing for Chinese New Year. That will not be for another three weeks but there is a lot to do to get ready.

We have our own way of preparing by buying tracts, posters, etc. to prepare for a week of special meetings. We also hope to have something more done at our out-station. We ought to take every advantage of people taking such a holiday. Shops are usually closed and people take the time to go around visiting.

Today I was called to quite a well to do home where the only little boy has some liver affection. Two Chinese doctors have already been called in and failed. If he is not better tomorrow I shall suggest calling in some one else. Some people in fact most can not afford to go anywhere else. But they are not all like that. The Chinese often tell me that it would be no difficult matter for me to make a living here in China by means of medical work. I would not object to it from the stand point of the amount of work it would be. There seems to be no less graft among Chinese doctors than in other lines of work. The charge enormous fees considering the small amount of training they have. So they think one could still live on our present standard not as the Chinese do or even better. We also mixed up a dose of medicine for one of the girls whose mother almost thought she was going to die. She knew better herself. The girl was

all over the compound this afternoon.

Next week Margaret hopes to take another section examination. Study does not worry her much. She could get along a lot faster if it did. She is naturally very bright so she has accomplished more than most people would. One of the church members also hopes to take her entrance examination to enter a hospital, ^{to be trained as} a nurse. Both have their examination papers in my hands. Eva has a set with me too. But just as she started to review she lost a lot of her notes. She may not get around to take her third section for a couple of months.

One of the girls may be coming again for some help in her arithmetic. The other day she asked me how to do cube root. I had to use some algebra to come to it because it has been so long since I worked that kind of problem. Margaret and I were discussing the other day why it was I can remember how to do arithmetic problems better than she can. The conclusion we drew was that since finishing grammar school I did more of that thing than she did. There are two of the girls who have needed coaching on arithmetic in order to pass the entrance examination in order to begin training as nurses. Margaret has been helping the slower one. She had a lot more arithmetic in school than the other one. But on review she is slower than the other on new work.

Today I went out to take a women's meeting in the country over a dozen were present. Nearly half took their turn reading verse about. We are taking up a comparatively simple Old Testament history and have

gone half way through Genesis. They do not always pay good attention but they did today. Today I went to see the little boy I saw yesterday. He was ever so much better. It would be necessary to use a microscope to make sure what is wrong with him. Whether any one here has such a thing I do not know.

Jan. 16. Yesterday I did not add a line to this letter. I spent forenoon studying, the afternoon in bed and in the evening I had to write a letter to one of "the powers that be" of the mission. The missionaries in our next mission station are away. And the soldiers have taken some of their goods. The man who told me should have found out their number. But you never can blame a person for the brains they do not have. Doris wrote to the missionary in the next station where there is a man. The man is old enough to be her father in fact she does call him her China father. This morning we also called in our teacher to write a letter. Usually we do not have him come on Saturday.

Yesterday one of the girls wanted help on an arithmetic problem. Eva and Margaret thought they would help her on it. But after nearly half the afternoon was over they brought it to me. It took me fifteen or twenty minutes to do it. Margaret did some mathematics in college she sees through it now of course. But Eva does not see through it yet. She went to school more than I did too.

As this is Saturday afternoon this letter better be got off. By the way I forgot to write that Mr. Canfield's mother died in October. She had been in bed eight years. They hoped this would mean that they could back to China. But they are too valuable in Los Angeles.

We are enjoying the popcorn. Some warm day I will have one of the girls take a snap of the Christmas outfit. I am sorry about the shoes but they just were too short. And

every place one goes one simply has to walk. It will have to be a long walk.

Hazel Todd,
China Inland Mission,
Shuchung, Anhwei, China.



32

Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

Jan. 12

Shucheng, Anhwei. Jan. 27, 1932.

Dear Winifred:-

Your letter written the twenty-seventh of last month came yesterday. That is as quick as letters are likely to come this time of year. You must be very busy with the school work and all. I hope you are not neglecting your music in the mean time. If you are like me though it is impossible not to leave some loose ends. Only I do not think we have an equal supply of brains. All men may have been "created free" but as to equality when it comes to physical strength and brains and some other things it does not exist and nothing we can do will change it so far as other folks are concerned. However when it comes to averages we have not a lot of room for complaint.

By the way I think the girl who was having me help her with her arithmetic in order to pass the examination to enter a hospital to begin training as a nurse must have passed with very good marks. If the most necessary thing to know as a nurse was mathematics she should get on alright. What I am afraid of is that she would not be kind. By the way if you can not go on with your education any other way than to take some nurse's training it might be a good idea to go in for a year or so. It would be useful whatever you do to the very end of your days.

My month in the hospital made me see that there are some places of it that are very interesting. Of course some things are not according to our taste but it is all work that some one has to do. College is best for you of course. It might be well for you to get in touch with Mr and Mrs. Canfield they may be able to help you to find something to do to help work your way through. But do not just stay there at Strathmore after you finish at Junior College. Of course you can always go back if you want to later. Staying at home waiting for something to turn up

like standing outside of a plunge waiting for the water to warm up. There is such a thing as faith. Lack of it keeps me from doing a lot of things we ought to do. No wonder it is called "the work of God". Perhaps I ought to quit my preaching. At any rate the dread of some things is worse than the reality.

Nothing of much consequence has happened the last few days. The few patients I have had have been too ill for me to care to take the responsibility. The little boy with the bad liver probably has one of three things wrong with him worms, dysentery or an internal abscess. I have named them in the order of how I would experiment to find out. Of course a doctor would need a microscope to be sure. The other little boy may have had poison. I gave him a good dose of castor oil which had the right effect before I knew what was causing the trouble. The little boy's cousin took him out to a temple and ran away from him to frighten him. And to make matters worse some one gave him something out there. Of course the child was nearly frightened out of his wits. He had a very high fever the next day when I saw him. Of course eyes and skin diseases are to cause ~~any~~ comment.

We are staying in most of the time this week and next. I suppose I ought to study but instead am looking up a lot of texts where the clue only is given in Chinese and the book. It takes hours to find a dozen or so in Psalms. Sometimes the translation is not very literal which makes it worse. There was one passage that is only "thousands" in English. In Chinese it was ten thousand thousands. But some time if the Lord tarries I may get familiar with my Chinese Bible yet. But it is not easy to learn a lot of names like Melchizedek and Mephibosheth in another languages. It almost seems as though I always knew them in English. Of course it is the same sound as near as possible. But my idea does not always agree with that of those who translated the Bible. Names of medicines and

diseases are another place where I have not yet attained. I suppose these take a while to learn in any language.

It looks like I may have to buy a lot of lime in a few days and send it to the next mission station. They may need a ton. It is about three times as much there as it would cost to buy it here and send it over. Of course men usually attend to repairs so the nearest man in the other direction is attending to the matter. But since he wrote to us about the price of lime there we have offered to buy it and send it up. If it had not been for the wall being down the missionaries there might not have lost their things. And there is not much use trying to get them back before the compound wall is rebuilt.

Our compound wall here has to be looked after and fixed a couple of times a year. It seems small boys think it is great sport to throw things against the wall to make dents. Soldiers do this too sometimes only most of them are still small boys as far as nature is concerned.

The colporteur who has been at our out-station is being let out until such time as the missionary he has been working under returns. He was not selling enough gospels to suit the Bible society. One time when I suggested his getting out more on his job he said he would do so if the Lord lead him to. I may be fearfully lacking in spirituality but it looks to me as though when one is accepting the pay of an organization one is to do the thing one is employed to do or resign. It may be a bit difficult to find some one to look after our out-station. But there are some men who are willing to go there to look after the Sunday services. And we hope to spend a lot of time there ourselves after the middle of next month.

So far the weather has been as mild as any winter I

have spent in China. Right this minute I am writing in the office and we have no fire in here. Once in a while we when we have deacon's meetings or for Chinese New Year we have a fire in here of some kind. I do get tired of trying to push the deacons to give more and to do some other things. I hope something can be done soon in the way of having meetings soon. When things are right at the center and there is life there is no need for pushing. People then would want to do the right thing.

With love,

Hazel Todd.

Shucheng, Anhwei, China. Feb. 10, 1932.

Dear Mother:-


Again we have not done much the last two weeks but to study. But in a couple of days we hope to start going out again. This is the first day we have had sun for nearly two weeks. We have had rain and snow. But at no time has the snow been more than three or four inches deep this winter. So after this week we should not see much more snow this season. Perhaps next week we can go to our out-station again. We hope the people who have offered to go with us will not back out. Of course our teacher is paid and would rather go along than attend to his regular work. Now we wish we had some more paid workers. It is not altogether lack of funds we do not have them. It may be alright to hire a cook or a woman servant. But that method is all wrong when it comes to Bible women and evangelists. They really should be called to their work as much as we were. Any one who has even done so dislikes working with folks that do their work for no other reason than because they are paid for it.

Some one came in with a neglected carbuncle or something like it yesterday. Eva came out to watch me dress it for the second time this morning and she talked both about fainting and about its turning her stomach. One time Mr. Mason and I looked after something just as bad when I did the dressing and he used the knife. It takes more than one to do some of these things. One does not want to leave it exposed too long and one person can not work quick enough to get it done. What one really needs is more courage. We are ~~also~~ attending to a bad burn on a little girl's leg. That seems to be doing very well. Her mother looked after it well before we saw it. She had pulled the dressings off instead of soaking them off. But after I drew her attention to it I guess she did not make that mistake again. Usually mothers at least love their little daughters even if no one else does.

The girl I told about in my last letter taking her examination to begin nurses training did pass alright. She hopes to begin training the first of next month. I suppose she may not like it but it is her own choice. She ought to be a teacher instead as her gifts are in that direction. But she thinks she could not get the training to be a teacher.

We had another deacon's meeting this week. The most important thing discussed was about having some week night meetings in the country. They can not come in the ^{city} gates at night. So those outside will have one meeting each week in one home for a prayer meeting and in another home for Bible study. They plan to hold these meetings on different evenings so some can attend both. I am glad they have discovered for themselves at last that it is too long to wait from Sunday to the next to attend worship. There are a few of the homes that have family worship. There may not be more than four or five of these. We will also have prayers meeting one evening a week on the compound for those who live in the city.

The girls I guess think I am a coward and perhaps they are right. Last Sunday was communion Sunday. And it was also our oldest deacon's birthday. So three of the other deacons staid at home from church to help him celebrate. I should have talked to them about it but I have not yet found out what should be said. After all they are a lot older than I am. The one who had the birthday was about as old as Father but has not been a church member much longer than I have and neither has any of the others. They could not even read then so had to learn in order to read their Bibles.

This house is going to need some repairs in the spring. The spouting around the house must be taken down and all done over. It was done with a slope like this  and holds

very little water. It should be more like this U. A lot of good tin was wasted on it that will have to be cut off. We also must have the dining room white-washed and the floor painted. The girls keep after me about having a drain dug. But I have not the slightest idea how to go about it. There is also money on the books for a new well. But I can not see the point in having it dug and some others share my opinion. It seems no one drinks well water or uses it for cooking but has it carried from the river. The objection to the well we have is that it is too near the city drain. But no well in China seems to be any great distance from something of the kind. Since we had the well cleaned out two or three months ago the water seems alright. And we never would drink any of it without boiling it. We will wait perhaps until a man comes along to see about the well.

There was a new kid born this week but it only lived a couple of days. It may have been chilled. The gardener gets a curtain lecture every once in a while about having the doors shut at night. But it goes in one ear and out the other. The nannie gives about a quart of milk a day and we get a little from the other. So now we even have a little milk to drink. It is a great saving not to have to buy milk.

You no doubt hear a lot about the trouble with Japan. You may know a lot more about it than we do. We have a paper that comes once a week. Usually the mail is not regular enough to pay to have it come more often. The Chinese newspaper office where most of the papers that come to Shucheng are printed has been burned. There is still one other source of news a radio at the high school. It is what we would call junior high at home. The people here are very

proud of the place. The wonder why we do not enthuse over those buildings. A very few who have been to Shanghai can see that these buildings with us would be called "the common garden variety" or worse.

Please tell Gladys when you see her that I received the photograph she sent of herself and George. And I do want to thank her for it. It is nice to know what one's sister-in-law looks like. The girls all say she looks like she has a lot to her. Did George and Gladys ever get the wedding present I sent to them. It was sent from Shanghai.

Does the English member of our household make as her excuse the reason that postage is so high for not writing more letters to her people at home. At least there is reason for not sending correspondence cards or short scrappy letters.

This letter has been in the process of being written for about three days so ought to be sent off.

With love to all of you,
Nigel Todd.

Shaocheng, Anhwei, Feb. 25, 1932.

Dear Mother:-

We are at the out-station and as it is handier to use a pencil I am going to do so. Eva is here in the room helping our personal teacher with his English. There is another man in the room studying a catechism. Occasionally he needs some help with a character.

Every one at home has a better chance to know what is really going on out here than we have. We hear in a round about way that China is on the winning side of the fight. But knowing the Chinese one is suspicious. We do know that orders went out to finish the automobile road that runs through Shucheng in a great hurry. The official is afraid he will literally lose his head if he does not get it done by the first of next month. Each head official of a county the road runs through is responsible for his own county. It is said they are so urgent because the governor of the province wants a good road on which to flee should the Japanese come up the river and take the capital of the province. Of course we do not know much about it. We should be able to reach Anking inside of half a day when the road is finished. And from there it only takes two days to reach Shanghai.

Most of the time lately we have had good weather. Only the afternoon we came here it rained and snowed. Every one said beforehand that when it was so cold and there was so much wind it would neither rain or snow. Our teacher did not come in the morning at the time to study so we took for granted he was coming to go with us. He came in at noon to say it was going to snow so he took it that we were not going. I asked him how we would

manage since our things were on the way. We got a good start before it started to rain and changed our shoes stockings and outer garments after we arrived. But he got soaked through because he started nearly two hours later. We staid up until eleven o'clock drying his clothes over a charcoal fire.

As you see I did not finish this letter at Taocheng. Either it was too cold to write or we were busy on something else. Most women staid at home on account of the cold. But we got out about every day for a while. And the teacher had about a hundred men out to listen to him two evenings. A lot of men were staying near working on the new automobile road. They came from miles around so it was a good chance to come in touch with them. We also sold well over two hundred and fifty gospels as well as gave out tracts. After working off and on in that place nearly a year one man is interested enough to want to learn to read the Bible. He came every evening and acted as usher. An usher is quite necessary where people are not accustomed to listening to preaching. There is also two women who were interested enough to omit doing some of the usual false affairs at Chinese New Year time. This is all we have to show for nearly a years work at that place. Of course a number have heard the gospel or read it because of our having been there and some one else may come along to reap the fruit of that.

When the next opportunity comes, Iris and Margaret hope to go to Taocheng. They have have had bad weather every time they went. They went just before the middle of December and were there for two of the coldest days of the whole winter. We did not have a woman who does so well on preaching this time. But she did better than other times when we have been out together. It is so easy to preach that idols are false but

to preach that only through the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross can one be saved from sin is not so easy. They seem to find it harder than we do to stick to the main theme.

Doris made the statement since I ^{when I am away} came back that she and Margaret do not get much studying done. This morning I sat down to study for half an hour. While reading the first chapter the gardener came in but went out again because he thought I was busy. The cook came in next to say he had bought four coolie loads of wood. I generally figure out what is to be paid for each load while he weighs the next. One load was 85 chin at 3900 cash a load. A chin is one and one third pounds and it takes a hundred chin to make a load. At present it takes 5400 cash to make a dollar. It took about 1200 or 1300 cash to a dollar when I first came to China. Of course this all refers to an Mexican dollar which is now worth about one fourth of an American dollar. I had been in a few minutes to study again when the gardener came in again and this time asked me to come and see the bricks he bought. I told him to wait a few minutes. Then Eva came to get my key to my trunk to get some money. She brought the keys back after getting a dollar or two. Next the woman came in to say a church member had come because his mouth was sore. I got him some alum to use. He paid me for a Testament and hymn book he bought nearly two months ago. Then I went to see about the bricks and came in to study tomorrow's message. I neglected to say I made the church member wait until I finished with the teacher. My next caller was an old woman with a face long enough to eat butter out of a churn. She wanted some salt and some money. I went to the dispensary after ^{salt} and took a round about way to the kitchen to ask the cook if the woman was really in need. He generally thinks people should not be given money but this time said this woman should have it so

she got it. We still had one more caller the wife of one of the deacons. She always does stay a long time. She wanted eye medicine for some one and some liniment for herself. We talked over plans for the next ones going to the out-station. She no doubt will be going with them. We also referred to the matter of going to Taosheng next Sunday. She promised to see that there is some one found to go. She usually does have a lot to tell us when she comes. So it was dinner time when she left. My morning had not began of course by reading with the teacher as one girl on the compound needed quinine. Also our dog had wandered off the place. I went to the door and called for him and he came through the door like a streak too fast for me to give him the whipping he deserved for leaving the compound. He went and stood on the porch wagging his tail, etc. And he did not get punished. Our dog is not worth the rice he eats but helps to keep things interesting. He comes to our rooms nearly every morning as soon as we are up to have us shake his paw and pet him. But his greatest use is to announce the approach of strangers which he does faithfully. Some of the people who live in the country say our dog gets better care than their children. This refers more though to the discipline he gets than anything else.

While we were away another kid was born. Its own mother pays far less attention to it than one of the other goats who lost her kid some weeks ago. It is very tiny but hardy. We are now raising three nannies for our own flock. Goats' milk is alright when one gets used to it.

We have had another letter from the Consul. We would leave if the authorities of the mission advised us to. The heads of the mission know this part of China very well. We will try to be careful. With three younger workers with me for whom I would be responsible should anything happen I am not keen about taking risks.

With love to all of you,
Wazel Todd.

Shucheng, Anhwei, Mar. 11, 1932.

Dear Mother:-

It was my intention to have another letter off by now. But the last few days I have done what had to be done and no more. When people come in for medicine or dressings that is one of the things that has to be done. However now that Doris Vinckley is ill we are sending for a doctor. She may have erysipelas. If so I do not like it starting just under her eye. Until recently there was not a foreign trained doctor in the place. Now that there is one I am not going to take the responsibility if one of the girls gets a severe illness. Doris does not have a good constitution which makes it worse.

Yesterday Margaret made the remark, "such a day" at the end of it. At least it was interesting. But to my mind it was very little different than the "common garden variety" days. She did not get the worst end of it either. More people than usual may have been in to see as in the morning for medicine but nothing was serious. In the afternoon before going out to the country for women's meeting I washed out a child's ear, looked after a small sized abscess before going out. Perhaps I should say our cur also bit a woman about then. As soon as we arrived at the meeting someone told us about a church member who ill. I went and looked at him but as I had forgotten my watch and naturally one does not take a thermometer to go to a women's class. So I sent back for those things as well as medicine I thought might be necessary. When I counted the man's pulse and found it to be 140 and his respiration about 45 I brought my medicine home.

The man's brother came after an expectorant latter in the evening of which I had given him one dose. They had thought that it helped. When we asked our teacher about the man this morning he said he was just living and was about all. The sick man is a brother of his brother-in-law. In fact the Sanchienq church nearly all are T'engs or Hsiao's or related in some way to them. On the whole the T'engs are by far the most satisfactory. Our teacher is T'eng so is nearly every one else in the church who does anything.

Out of eight deacons three are T'engs. One is a step brother to two of the T'engs, two are their cousins, and the daughter-in-law of another is a T'eng. The only other deacon has not attended deacon's meeting for a year. There is more than one reason why he should be removed from being deacon.

Doris and Margaret had wanted to go to Taocheng our out-station this week. But Doris is ill so she ought not to make a trip like that for at least a week. It is a long walk for her when she is at her best. And Margaret would not want to leave Doris. Perhaps Eva will be the one to go after all. She seems to be the least useful to help in case of sickness. We did call in a foreign trained doctor today but he knows very little more about what to do than I do. The roads of course may interfere with any one going. It has rained a lot today. The roads up at Taocheng are about the same kind of sticky clay you have there. Doris probably has influenza. And she also has a red place on her face that looks a little like erysipelas.

The new automobile road has not yet been used for cars. I suppose there will be a great commotion when the first one does appear. Not more than one person ^{in ten} around here has seen one. They have even planted trees along the new road. We are not altogether sure the bridges are built strong enough. That it is better to be safe than sorry has not occurred to many. A few weeks ago we watched some men driving piles. By their method it took about six men an hour to drive one pile. If we followed such methods at home there might be less unemployment of course. These piles were about as thick and half as long as most telephone poles. Our cook's wife asked us if we were going to take a picture of ^a certain bridge to send home. Some of their old stone bridges are not so bad considering they were done by hand.

Before this rain the gardener got the tomatoe and lettuce seed sown. I suppose he ought to get right on the job as soon as the ground is dry enough and put in radishes and peas.

Mar. 15. Yesterday a letter came from the girl whom I coached some in arithmetic to enter a hospital to start her training as a nurse. There was a lot of arithmetic in the entrance examination. She wrote back and said she was the only girl in the class who had not graduated from high school. She was only in school four years. Of course she picked up a lot. But for all her brightness she will have to work now. The girl that Margaret coached though in English because she had so much of it is going to be allowed to finish in three years instead of the usual four in China.

Margaret and Eva got started off to the out-station today. Doris felt terribly hurt to have Margaret go off and

leave her. But she needs to just lounge around a few days. She is very pale yet.

Our cook's granddaughter started going to school today. Her aunt bought books for her the same as for her own little boy starting to go to school. When our teacher heard of it he was shocked. He has taught school himself so he went to see the teacher about it. The teacher tried the child out on the first reader and found that there were three characters or words in it that the child did not recognize. So the child is being started on the third grade. She has seen taught about an hour a day for a year.

Sunday it was very cold and windy. The church was nearly filled though. Some one said this was partly due to medical work. The sick man they called me in to see on Thursday had been to church on Sunday. Friday evening he died. They thought he was going to get better in spite of my warnings. A pulse of 140 in a man makes me think an illness is dangerous. This man was the first at Shucheng to be married with a christian marriage ceremony. Neither wanted to answer questions especially not the bride. It is said they made fun of the man for years for the way things went. Of course after that the ice was more or less broken and it was not so difficult for the next ones.

It is high time this letter was on its way. I must stop and get ready for prayers this evening.

With love to all of you,
Hazel Todd.

Shucheng, Anhwei, China, Apr. 29, 1932.

Dear Mother:—

This letter is being started in the out-station room. This time none of the other girls came with me. Eva took Doris's turn last time because of her having been sick. And now Eva is busy preparing for another section examination. Besides there is a case of what may be typhoid on the compound. The cook of course would have a lot to do with his daughter. So we are letting him off for a time. Of course this makes a lot of extra work even though the gardener builds the fires.

Apr. 2. This is Saturday and it would take a longer letter than I expect to write this time to tell all that has happened the last few days. Typhoid was not my first diagnosis of the illness of the person mentioned in the above paragraph but influenza. We suspected different things among them ~~and influenza~~. The first few days the woman did not seem very ill. The first few days. Her stomach was upset but a mixture of bismuth and soda seemed to help that. And aspirin helped the headache. But on Tuesday morning when she moaned because of her head after taking ten grains of aspirin I insisted on a foreign trained doctor being called in. On Thursday on my own responsibility I wrote to the missionaries who employ her husband asking them to tell her husband that his wife was ill. It was on Saturday that I left to go to the out-station. I told the others that since there was a foreign trained doctor in charge I need not hesitate about going. I still wonder if it was the Lord's will for me to go. She kept calling me so often after I left. She seemed to think there was something I might have done for her. The next morning Doris was asked to send a telegram to her husband. Both the letter and telegram went extra fast. And the letter reached there

just an hour before the telegram. There is about eighty miles between that place and here. The husband had to walk the whole distance and got here about fifty-four hours after receiving the telegram. But she had been dead twenty hours then. Mr. Li told me later he would not have walked so fast had he known there was no hopes of seeing his wife again. He had not seen his wife for six months and there was a baby daughter of two months he never had seen before. Their third little son had died about a month after he left. The oldest boy just started going to school a few weeks ago. Of course we may be some what to blame for not sending for the husband sooner but right up to the last day the doctor thought she would recover.

They employed a wet nurse for the baby and the cook has taken in the two boys along with the son's children. Of course the son and daughter-in-law live with them. This was of course arranged at once. When I got home on Wednesday after walking nearly ten miles it was to meet the woman's sister and sister-in-law at the city gate. So I went back to the grave with them and met the brother and husband with some others still at the gate. But the end was not yet although the loss of a young mother does mean so much. The cook only has two daughters. The other one had a baby daughter the same age but larger than that of the older sister. She was a beautiful baby. Friday night when they went to bed she seemed alright. During the night the daughter noticed the baby was feverish and spoke to her mother about it. But they did not either of them think it important enough to disturb me about it. When the daughter was about to get up in the morning she thought the baby was dead. I guess she thought right. They called me hoping they were wrong.

But I did not have to examine the baby very long before I had to admit that the sweet little child was dead. The mother of course felt terrible about it. She has a little boy not yet three years old and the baby was her first daughter. There was another funeral on the compound Saturday forenoon. Except for the baby's father and his sister who came in that morning because of her eyes the only others who came were those of us on the compound. The gate-keeper conducted the funeral. The coffin was the unadorned kerosene box such as they use for two five gallon tins. But if I had not put in my say there might not have been any service or even a box for a coffin. Later on in the day the baby's mother suggested that she would like to take care of her sister's baby. This was talked over with both her husband and brother-in-law so she is now taking care of her niece. Although a half month older she is not so large as her own was. And she is not nearly so pretty or bright. Since we came here there has been four deaths in the cook's family. Each of his three children have lost a child also one of the two daughters is gone.

The man with the bad sore on his back I began looking after over two months ago now only comes every two or three days. From a place fully as big as one's hand it has healed until it is about as large as a finger. But best of all both he and his mother have definitely decided to believe the gospel. To be sure I did change the dressings but the healing of the sore was the Lord's work and even more so has it ~~been~~ His work the changing of the man's attitude toward Him.

There are various other sores, burns and sore eyes that are being attended to. Twice within the last ten days they have called me to the homes of neighbors to look after

the burns caused by scalding water. The first place I went the burn is about well. And where I went this morning it should not take many days to heal^{up}. Miss Smith's adopted daughter is on the compound with her two little boys. The older one's hand was swollen to nearly twice its normal size when he came ten days ago. There is no reason why they should not go home now except that it is raining. The hand may need to be bandaged a few days because the skin is tender. While they have been away there has been a fire in the village where they live. The house where they lived need not have been touched but their neighbors tore it down out of spite but giving as their excuse that it was to check the fire. Houses are sometimes torn down in China for this reason but in this case it need not have been done.

The gate-keeper is waiting for my letter or I might write more. Last night our cook and his wife had a grand scrap. It was made up today. Just something more to worry about while it lasted.

With love to all,
Hazel Todd.

Huling, Kiangsi, China. July 18, 1932.

Dear Mother:-

One succeeds in killing a lot of time up here. The walks here are just as wonderful as ever. And while one meets new people each year here there are more than ever that I have met before.

Evelyn Baker is in this house too. She is not very well and she has just been working hard to get her first section language examination off. She has been put with two other rather new workers and it is not altogether a good combination. They apparently have servants who are careless about boiling the water etc., servants are like that often they do not want to understand a new worker. I sometimes wish I could take her back to Shucheng with us so as to look after her a bit. During one's first years in China just studying the language and becoming acclimatized is enough for one. Evelyn has lost a lot in weight.

I used to think when the necessary language examinations were over that many of my problems would be solved. But added years in China mean more responsibility. I perhaps wrote you of how the decision to leave Shucheng for the summer had to be made by me. Any mistake there and to me alone would have been the blame. This morning I consulted a nurse about one of the girls working with me. She told me that as senior worker in the station that it was my business to get the girl to see a doctor or else to let those in authority in the mission know her symptoms. If not she told me I might be blamed there.

If I had not taken that year study in B. I. while on furlough it might not have occurred to me that the girl needs to see a doctor. She is English and there is a lot she will not tell me.

Of course it is not all so serious. One day I went into the kitchen when Eva was there. She was about to make "deviled eggs" but as usual had hunted a recipe first. The recipe called for a little lemon juice so she was about to substitute lemon extract. When I spoke to her about it, she said "does not one always substitute lemon extract for lemon juice?" Eva succeeds in being and saying the wrong thing at the wrong time about as often as I do. One could write a lot along this line. Anyway she makes things interesting. One time when she went with us to an out-station one of the Chinese said there would not have been anything going on if Eva had not been there. Things are not very dull when she is around. And she never fusses about being tired or such things. When we came from Shucheng it took us three days. In the afternoon when we came in sight of Anking, Eva said "I wish we had another day on the way." She only weighs ninety-eight pounds and is an inch or two under five feet tall. So she can get away with acting like a child. Some of the time she likes it and sometimes she says, "I am thirty and it is time people quit treating me like a child." Probably there are disadvantages in being small.

Several from the C. I. M. are practicing on the "Messiah" which they are going to sing at end of the season. It is a wonderful thing as you probably know. Some of the folks here at this place have good voices but there is nothing unusual about any of them.

who are here this year.

July 20. We went for a walk this morning before breakfast that took us about two hours. Later on we may go for an all day walk. At least I do not have too much to carry. This summer I weigh just under a hundred and twenty-two pounds. This is either because of not being well or from not eating enough. It is just China. But Hunan would be worse than Anhwei although I do want to go back.

Last week a letter came from Elva. When I was at Moody Bible Institute I bought the biggest print New Testament they had to send to her. In this letter she said she has read it through several times.

It was not until coming up here that there has been much opportunity to wear the things sent me for Christmas. But I do appreciate having them now. I had shoes made to match the leather in the bag, etc. The cloth Mrs Draffin sent me for Christmas was a light green and white with a darker green line running through it. It is trimmed in China silk to match the line. That I sometimes wear with the things for it is more than usually hot here this summer. It must be terrible on the plain. One has to dress up occasionally here at Kuling. So my Christmas things come in handy. My old bag was worn out. And there are times when the things you sent come in handy. I may buy some things for my room and the house with some of the Christmas money.

Letters from both Alice and Winifred came this week. I am so glad Alice has passed the teacher's examination. She should make a very good teacher if she gets a job. In my work at least there are not too many suitable applicants but that is different. Most jobs do seem to be too few these days.

We hear there has been a better group of soldiers sent to
Anhuai so that means no doubt we can return to our work on
time.

With love to all,
Hazel Todd.

Hazel Todd,
China Inland Mission,
Shucheng, Anhwei, China.

Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

18

July

32



Shuchung, Anhwei, China.
Apr. 27, 1932.

Dear Mother:-

There is one experience one often hears other missionaries relate that I began thinking would never happen to me. That is to find a baby girl parked at our door step. She is a lovely baby to have been accorded such treatment. And of course the only thing we could do was to take her in. People disagree as to her age being two or four months. I think it is nearer two. Her big eyes were wide open when we first saw her. That was the only attractive thing about her. She was dressed in rags most of them too dirty for mop rags. Our woman servant advanced the theory that the child had no mother saying that even a person was a beggar she would at least try to keep her own child clean and if she were going to give it away she would as the last thing she did for it wash its clothes. Usually in this

part of China if they do not want a child they do away with it right after it is born. But the mother of this child although she had other girls intended to keep it at first. But recently when brigands in their district were so bad they had to flee. It was then that she tried everywhere she went for two three days to find some one to take her baby. The baby is really not badly nourished. But she was terribly sore from not being kept clean. These sores have healed much faster than we thought they would. Much of our time this week has been spent in getting the baby some clothes. We have also employed a wet nurse for her. Goat milk did not agree with her. Also we did not think the mission would like our being tied down to a child. We will not at the most put in more than a dollar a piece for her clothes now. But the Chinese think she is being

2.
provided for wonderfully well. We are trying to make it known we do not welcome such presents. As we might be presented with enough children to fill an orphanage well inside a week.

We will send you a snap of her as soon as we get one. For the present the four of us will share in the expence of her up keep. We have not yet decided on the name. We thought of naming her "happy sound" the name given to most mission halls but it does not meet the approval of the Chinese. Our teacher suggests "loved Precious" and I suppose that will be the name.

Since we took in the baby girl some one thought because we did so much for a girl surely we would be even more pleased with a boy and came offering us theirs. Of course there had to be a flat refusal which they could not quite understand.

All week Margaret and Doris have been wanting to go to a town about thirty-five miles from here. Margaret is to go there to

work with her younger sister as soon as arrangements can be made. That place will need a lot of repairs done first. Of course Margaret wants to go and look around a bit first. There is a small church of less than twenty members. But the place is very large perhaps nearly a hundred thousand people. Three really ought to manage with the work in this place fairly well. What we really need here is more Chinese help.

One of the deacons seems to be some what frightened about the turn events have taken and his wife keeps telling Doris and Margaret about it. To break the spell the other day I started out with two of the other deacons the other day but it rained. We expect to try it again. There is a place a few miles out where we want to do some evangelistic work.

We were delighted to hear yesterday that a young married couple with a baby expect to spend the summer here. They are very fine people. He used to play the piano for our alumni meetings at B. I. They are both graduates from

there. Margaret and her sister also were at B. I. And they also expect to be here this summer. Quite a B. I. crowd for an interior mission station.

I made some baking-powder bread today because we ran out of yeast. Doris says it will not keep but where she got her inside information is more than I know. We have plenty of lettuce and radishes now. We began using the lettuce more than two weeks ago. Yesterday the gardener transplanted over eighty tomato plants and should transplant more today. They are late but the seed did not come in time. If we are going to have a crowd this summer we ought to have a good garden. It looks fairly good at present. We have about two quarts of goat's milk a day. By weaning the kids which it is high time we do we should have another quart.

There is one more letter that must be written today so I must stop.

Perhaps you are cheated by my using
the smaller paper.

With love,

Vazel Todd.

P.S. Our baby is so cute and smiles so
when we play with her. The woman we
are paying to look after ^{her} says if she were
not so poor she would bring her up
as her own. There will soon be a change
in C. P. O. postage stamps. China does
not want to be kind always.

Hand Todd,
China Inland Mission,
Shucheng, Anhwei, China.

Mrs. C. W. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

32
April 27



Shucheng, Anhwei, China,
May 13, 1932.

Dear All of You:-

It has been a long time since I last wrote and a lot longer since my last letter came from home. Probably if one wrote all they heard one could soon fill a long letter. The younger girls with me get rather excited at times. And truth to tell there are some things do get on one's nerves a bit. They should not though. When we act as Ambassadors of the King of kings we do not prepare to depart when the first rumour reaches one. And there are so many rumours that have no basis in fact. But perhaps we may go to our out-station two or three days from now and there await to see how things develop. People are accustomed to seeing us go to the out-station. One never wants to give the impression one is fleeing unless absolutely necessary.

An aeroplane circled around Shucheng this morning three or more times this frightened people all the more. This is the second time this has happened this spring.

Margaret and Doris are away just now. They have gone to a place about thirty-five miles from here where Margaret and her sister are to work latter. We are sending them word to stay where there are a few more days. We will also send them bread, cookies, cake and a few other things to last a few days. We will also send some gospels and tracts. I guess the whole aspect of things there is rather depressing. They have not realized although I have told them that the church at Shucheng is really much better than the average one in China. That is not saying a lot though.

May 16. Things are much brighter again today. So we will be sending for the other two in a few days probably. If things continue to improve we will send

less than a month old. From most points of view it is better for her to be taken to an orphanage. But we will keep her here her first year. The Chinese most of them think her clothes are wonderful and abundant too. The wet nurse said something about her baby lived to be a month old and never had a new garment. Of most things the baby has two of a kind so that she has a change. Their method would be to wrap her in some rags while her clothes are being washed. We wonder what they would think of the three

or more changes we think a baby should have.

Since my last letter it has been possible to visit the out-station once more. It rained most of the time we were there so we did not have many out. Had I not taken the cook with me it would have been better for Eva. But our teacher was with the other two so no one was free but our cook. She had "dreadful time trying to make biscuits. You see her mother brought her up the approved modern way without learning to do anything about a kitchen. She is not lazy though and she wants to learn. But I could almost make a batch of biscuits while she looks for a recipe. Of course you do it a lot faster than I do but there might be some reasons for that. We ran out of yeast before we went. So I made baking powder bread. Doris always says that kind of bread does not keep.

To go back to our out-station trip we did sell more than two hundred gospels. One man who heard the gospel for the first time since we began going there a year ago the deacons think is ready for baptism. One certainly wishes we had more to show for our work there but we should be thankful for this much.

Just now there are a lot of refugees there. Some say two thousand have come. The deacon who went to take the Sunday service yesterday preached until he was hoarse. Some one ought to go to take advantage of so many people being in the town with so much leisure. Besides usually we find people in trouble are more ready to listen. We met three refugees Saturday at the home of a deacon. One boy with them had typhus fever the first case I have seen to know what it was. The father "how-towed" to me thinking it necessary

in order to have me give the child some medicine. They had about given up hope. I assured them there was some hope left and gave the boy some medicine. He was some better the next morning. What happened afterwards I do not know as they left being afraid perhaps even to stay here. Of course the housing situation has to be thought of also as rents have gone up ever so high. A family of refugees are to be allowed to live on the compound a few weeks.

A few of the people are christians. One of the refugees brought us a bunch of orchids one day. The kind they have here is green with red spots. They are lovely and fragrant.

With love,

Hazel Todd.

Shucheng, Anhwei, China,
June 6, 1932.

Dear Mother:-

The last few weeks seem to have been more than usually full so that there has been less time to write letters. If you picture me sitting before a desk all day it is not what happens. Unless it is raining to have an hour that is not broken into is not every day by any means.

Last week we spent our time at our out-station which of course means living in suit cases. Eva went with me as well as our gate-keeper's wife, our personal teacher and his sister. From the point of view of interest it is the best trip we have had. The last night after the men had talked for over two hours and one was dismissing the meeting an old man over sixty spoke up saying "Teacher, you say we should worship God, how are we to do it"? One could tell by the way the question was asked that the man was

was sincere. Our teacher quoted Jno 4:24 but the man was still bewildered. At this a man who heard the gospel about seven months ago, ^{for the first time} but seems to be thoroughly converted spoke up. "You come to my house tomorrow and we will talk the matter over. We ourselves had to leave early in the morning. We are truly thankful that when we have to leave there is a witness left in the place. There were such more than ordinary things to decide that it would not have been wise to stay there longer.

June 11 Doris and Margaret had been ill while we were away and had some difficulty keeping out the soldiers. They had both of them been on the sick list. And to top it all they had a telegram from Shanghai saying that if in the opinion of the Chinese workers here we ought to leave we should go to Anking. They were inclined to

want to leave at once even before my return. It all looks so terrible at times the first time one meets something of this kind. Anyhow my coming back and having a quiet discussion with the deacons has delayed their chariot a few days. What we did do was between the four of us send off four barrows of our things. Since two of us Eva and I do go away for the summer and Margaret is to move we thought we might as well send things to where it is supposed to be more safe. What younger workers find it difficult to get through their heads is that if it is dangerous enough so that one must leave there just is not time to stop and look after one's goods. There are two reasons as well as the other light given me why I think it best to wait a while before leaving

One is that if we run away every time we hear a rumor we contradict the statements we make about the Lord being able to protect us. Second if we leave when there are so many soldiers ~~so~~ about the house is almost certain to be used by them so that we would have a terrible job getting it clean again. And the expense of repairs might be hundreds of dollars. Our China Director of the mission wrote to me saying he was confident I would do the the right thing as to leaving or not. (I am not so sure of it). One often has to decide more important questions for oneself. But where one's decision affects three younger workers one simply must have the wisdom that is from above. To the west of us perhaps forty miles perhaps I should say is a hot bed of communists and bandits

3
The first lot of soldiers who went to fight them simply surrendered their guns. That of course made bad matters worse. Now tens of thousands of soldiers have gone there to almost wipe out the place something like P. T. doings. Of course they may not have any easy task before them. And most of the real communists saw to it they got out long ago. One of the old missionaries of this province is now in their hands. We do not even know where he is.

June 11. It is raining very hard today. We are glad all of us are here and not out on the road anywhere. I have thought this was coming from the way it has been so hot the last few days. The nights have been warm too. This seems to be going ~~to be going to~~ to be a hot summer. But the crops are wonderful and you should see

our garden. We dread having to go away and leave it. The tomatoe plants are full of blossoms. There are lots of beets soon ready to use. At present we have lettuce, radishes, parsley, string beans and peas. There has been three beds of lettuce planted and the third lot will be soon ready to use. Our sweet corn and potatoes are getting on abright. We do not have as much goat's milk now but we have over a quart a day. It goes abright when one is used to it.

Gordon's picture came a couple of week's ago. I hoped to have written to him about it before now to thank him for it.

We had to poison our dog "Larry" because he bit children. Perhaps it should be said I most thoroughly did not enjoy doing it. He had about the same color "Sport" had. Of course we should not miss a

dog when we have a baby. Our baby is doing fine. She have been vaccinated too and that is taking well. Perhaps she would not appeal to you though for she is typically Chinese.

Our teacher^{is} getting on fairly well. He is about twenty-four. He often says he is called to do definite christian work. But at times to me he does not seem stable and earnest enough. At any rate the deacons have decided to have him take a Sunday service once a month. I suppose we do not realize what it means for a young man here to take a stand as a christian. At home the persecution one would receive would end with a few sneers and irritating remarks. But one can never tell when it may mean much more than that here. The other day he said something about how all the young fellows

not take it in just how safe her
little one is.

This letter must get off today.
We plan to leave here on the twenty-
seventh or earlier if conditions do
not improve.

With love to all,
Hazel Todd.